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DRAG

VOL 6

NO 23

A TV Review

Recent Debutantes

Mid-West TV'S
& The Parade

NEWS and
Classified Ads

Vicky

DRAG

A MAGAZINE ABOUT THE TRANSVESTITE

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READ ALL ABOUT IT!

The Drag Times

WORLD WIDE NEWS OF THE TRANSVESTITE COMMUNITY

Boston "Miss Gay" Contest Ends in Brawl!

The Miss Gay East Coast pageant exploded into an "unladylike" fracas recently in Boston. The beauty and talent show held at the downstairs Citadel Lounge, was the second such contest to end in a skirmish. The contestants, all of whom were drag queens, represented local Boston bars and included representatives from both the Randolph Country Club and two Manchester N.H., bars. The night's proceedings began on a sour note as the contest was delayed nearly two hours by the absence of the two Citadel contestants. Michelle of Foxy Lady Review hosted the event and requested the Citadel entrant's disqualification due to their lateness. The two contestants arrived later during the initial introduction of candidates and were admitted into the contest. They had had car trouble which Citadel manager Harry Zagouras stated he had authenticated.

The melee began at the contest's conclusion when Warren Carpenter, Manchester (N.H.) bar owner and sponsor

of two contestants, took the stage to object to the winner, a Citadel representative. Carpenter stated that the contest was "fixed", and went further to point out that the contestants had initially been disqualified. The confrontation resulted in a physical attack on Michelle. Some member of the audience responded by throwing a barrage of glasses onto the stage, which resulted in both Carpenter and other audience members sustaining cuts and bruises.

Michelle stated later, that she "would never run another pageant in this city." "I've run pageants all along the South," she said, "but nowhere is the mood so volatile as in Boston!" One contestant, in recommending a judge to serve during the contest, claimed he was told that judges could participate only if Citadel contestants were favored. Harry Zagouras of the Citadel denied this complaint. "I picked two judges," he commented, "and Michelle picked three. There was no room for a fixed contest."

More and More Women are Wearing Men's Clothes

More and more women are wearing men's clothing as a symbol of equality, competence and confidence, say psychiatrists.

"Jackie Onassis, Nancy Kissinger, Liza Minnelli, Raquel Welch, Diana Ross, Twiggy and Bianca Jagger are striking women who can dramatize men's fashions--they challenge men on an equal footing," said Dr. Shirley Van Ferney, consulting psychiatrist to Princeton Hospital's Teenage Crisis Center in New Jersey.

Wearing male clothes gives women a feeling of equality, said Dr. Shirley Zussman.

"It's one way of saying there's no difference between men and women--except physically.

"Getting away from clinging things and

low necklines is a way for women to point up their confidence and capabilities rather than their feminine wiles.

"Women like Jackie and Mrs. Kissinger have identities all their own, but occasionally they want to make a statement that they can dress like a man and still be elegant and feminine."

Dr. Zussman, a psychiatrist with the Jewish-Hillside Medical Center in Long Island, added that women who dress like men may be unconsciously warding off the sexual interest of men in exactly the opposite way that many women wear low-cut, sexy dresses to attract men.

"Women have more of a sense of freedom and comfort by dressing like men," said Dr. Barbara Hariton, a psychologist from Long Island.

"It indicates a lessening of the very traditional and closely bound roles that women have.

"I find these styles rather unflattering and I believe that some women wear them as a kind of protest against their image as a sex object instead of being admired for their capabilities."

Grumbled Paris psychiatrist Jean Claude Meyer: "Women are women and men are men. I think it's a form of punishment to design male clothes for women."

For those men who don't like women wearing male clothes, don't be pessimistic, says Dr. Zussman. "Women are too sensitive of their own image to go over completely to male clothes."

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Aggressive Females Become Barren

Aggressive feminists have been warned that they are in danger of becoming barren, growing hair on their chests and turning homosexual.

Top expert on fertility problems, Professor Ivor Mills, of Cambridge University, said recently that the same drive that compels women's libbers to assert themselves in a "man's world" also makes them produce excessive male hormones.

He told the press: "I have dealt with this problem for many years in my clinic at Cambridge."

Women Part

A woman had her marriage annulled recently in Cambridge, England, because the "husband" was a woman too.

Ms. Susan Hayes, now living in New York, had lived with Samuel Hayes in Comberton, Cambridgeshire, after their wedding at Cambridge register office in 1969. They parted early last year.

Mr. Justice Stephen Brown, granting the decree in the High Court Family Division, said Ms. Hayes had known "husband" was a woman, at the time of the wedding..

Atlanta TS Sues For Surgery

Atlanta: His identity protected by a federal judges' consent, a 25 year old Georgia man who claims, "I am a woman" has sued the state and federal governments, seeking to force them to pay for recommended transsexual surgery through Medicaid.

The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court, here under the fictitious name of Carolyn Rush" maintains in part that the state's policy to deny funds for transsexual surgery amounts to unlawful sexual discrimination against transsexuals. The Georgian who is the son of a Bahamian mother and a Japanese father, said that the operation is "the only treatment which will make it possible for (me) to live a more normal life devoid of frustrations and despair."

According to court records, the surgery actually was authorized in 1974 by a program officer for the Georgia

Department of Human Resources.

"Approval was granted on the basis of rehabilitative potential after surgery," program officer Cathy Harbin wrote in a June 4, 1974 letter introduced as court evidence. The final determination to deny authorization for Medicaid program, Sam Thurman.

Thurman said that the denial was based in part on a determination that "there is no apparent pathological condition" and that the Medicaid program "specifically eliminates payments for such procedures" as well as for certain other "experimental surgery". Although Ms. Rush denies being a homosexual and has stated that... "I loathe homosexuals," she has been living with a man for the last few years whom she describes as her lover.

Circumcision Makes He a She

Seattle, Wash.: A couple who decided to have their infant son charged into a girl rather than rear the child as an eunuch has been awarded \$850,000 for damages resulting from malpractice during circumcision.

U.S. District Judge Walter McGovern awarded \$750,000 to the child, now 3 years old and \$100,000 to her parents.

The damages are to be paid into a trust fund by the federal government because the circumcision was performed by an armed forces doctor when the child was 5 months old and the father was in the military service.

According to testimony in the two-day trial, the baby's genital area was injured so badly that specialists recommended changing the child's sex to female.

In awarding damages, the judge noted that the child had undergone 8 surgical operations and faces several more as she matures.

"The parent-child relationship is affected", the judge said. "In future years they will look at certain of her activities and wonder if she's beginning to revert to being a male."

"She's suffered severe surgical scarring. How will she look at herself as she grows older?"

Doctors testified that lifetime treatment with hormones will develop and maintain a feminine body, but they said the child will never be able to bear children and will have only a 50-50 chance of

enjoying sexual response. The doctors said she also faces a greater than average risk of infection.

The greatest threat to the child's future well being is that deep psychological trauma if she finds out she was born a male.

The parents, their attorney, and the judge requested that the family name be withheld from publication.

In representing the federal government, the U.S. Attorney's office made no effort in the trial to contest the allegation of malpractice.

Transvestite Burglar

A transvestite who made nocturnal raids in drag on London flats was jailed for seven years at the Old Bailey. On one of his raids, a young couple woke to find him by their bed in a black wet-look shortie nightie, threatening them with a carving knife in one hand and masturbating with the other. He told them to have sex in front of him. Judge Alexander Karmet told Australian yachtman, Robert Burke (34): "You are a sexual deviant, what is known as a transvestite.

"There must be many thousands of transvestites in this country, but happily they do not come before court for the sort of offences you committed.

"You are also a robber, a burglar and an arsonist and it is unthinkable you should go free, for you are a criminal quite apart from your sexual deviation." Burke pleaded guilty to five burglaries, one count of theft and two charges of arson, all in the middle of June last year.

Ihlenfeld Explains Why He'll No Longer Treat Transsexuals

Medical science plays such a great role in the new art of sexual reassignment that the procedure is often viewed as a sort of medical "cure" for the painful "ailment" of transsexualism. Psychotherapy usually fails in attempts to cure the patient's pain by trying to alter, say, a feminine psyche to fit a male body. So professionals in the field have tended to agree with pioneer Dr. Harry Benjamin that it is "logical and justifiable" to adjust the body to the mind.

But now a prominent protege of Dr. Benjamin has begun to have second thoughts.

Endocrinologist Dr. Charles L. Ihlenfeld has left the field after helping 100 or more patients change their sex. He says this decision was triggered by a profound emotional event in his own life: coming out of the closet as a homo-

sexual.

"Like many others, I was functioning as a patient-advocate," Dr. Ihlenfeld says. "I began to lecture in favor of sex reassignment, making some fairly outlandish speeches to college groups. I really felt these people deserved understanding and liberation. But now I think this attitude reflected my own needs for acceptance and understanding.

"Nonpsychiatric professionals in the field, including myself, have tended to see themselves as rescuers," Ihlenfeld says. But he cites a follow-up study indicating, "whatever surgery did, it did not fulfill a basic yearning for something that is difficult to define. This goes along with the idea that we are trying to treat superficially something that is much deeper. It may also mean that if you are born to be a transsexual, you are doomed never to be totally happy..."

"QUEAN"

This letter to London Gay News should be of interest to our readers:

"I have only started buying Gay News in the last few months and I must say that I find the articles, reviews, interviews, and general news items of great interest. I do however have one criticism and that is the wholly incorrect usage, by your contributors and letter-writers, of the word 'queen'.

The correct spelling in the context in which we use it is 'quean' and is given in various dictionaries as meaning "a fast woman", "a female cat", "a jezabel", etc. This surely is more descriptive of the real qualities and attributes of those of us who behave in an outrageous or excessively camp manner and thus qualifies us as 'queans' rather than 'queen'."



UPI photos

The Sweetest Girl I Know: STEVE DAIN

A gym teacher at a California high school, dubbed "the sweetest girl I've ever known" by a former superintendent of schools, has shocked this community by showing up as a man. The teacher, formerly known as Doris Richards and now wishing to be known as Steve Dain, recently spent a six-month sick leave undergoing sex change operations. Dain has informed the school board that he wishes to stay on the job.

The United Press International reports that reactions to the now-bearded teacher's change of identity have been mixed. One worker at the board of education was

quoted as saying, "It kind of makes your skin crawl." But Flo Bigelow, one of the five members of the board of education, showed more sensitivity. "Life is too complex--full of change and if it makes this person happy to change life-styles, that's all right with me." Students generally wanted the teacher retained and one of them said, "She coached us to championships and everybody just loved her."

The teacher is reported to be writing a book on his sex change in which he "is recording reactions when he shows up with a beard and reveals his new identity."

Truck Driver Refuses to Wear Pants

A Detroit truck driver who underwent a sex change operation from male to female has been suspended by the Wayne County Road Commission for refusing to wear a regulation man's work uniform.

Snaron K. Swank, an acknowledged transsexual who had continued driving a 10-ton dump truck following the operation last year, said she was suspended for the second time after refusing a direct order from her boss to change clothes.

The week before, she said she had been issued a special work uniform consisting of a light-blue, smock-type woman's work blouse and navy-blue work slacks. Male employees of the commission wear light-blue, long sleeved men's shirts and navy-blue pants.

Miss Swank said that since being sent

home, she has continued to punch a time clock daily on her 6:42 a.m. shift at the agency's suburban Wayne office only to be sent home once again.

"I'm not going to be used as a doormat", she said.

Pennsylvania to Pay for Sex Change

The Pennsylvania Department of Welfare has confirmed, for the first time in its history, that it would pay for transsexual (sex change) operations through its medical assistance program.

The director of the state's Bureau of Medical Assistance said that the department has already paid for "one or two" transsexual operations for welfare recipients and would continue to do so in the future "if the surgery is authorized by a physician (usually a psychiatrist) licenced in Pennsylvania.

"If you liked Peter Jackson's 'Zou' at the Blue Angel, you'll love his new 'Pouff' at La Vie En Rose" Earl Wilson, N.Y. Post

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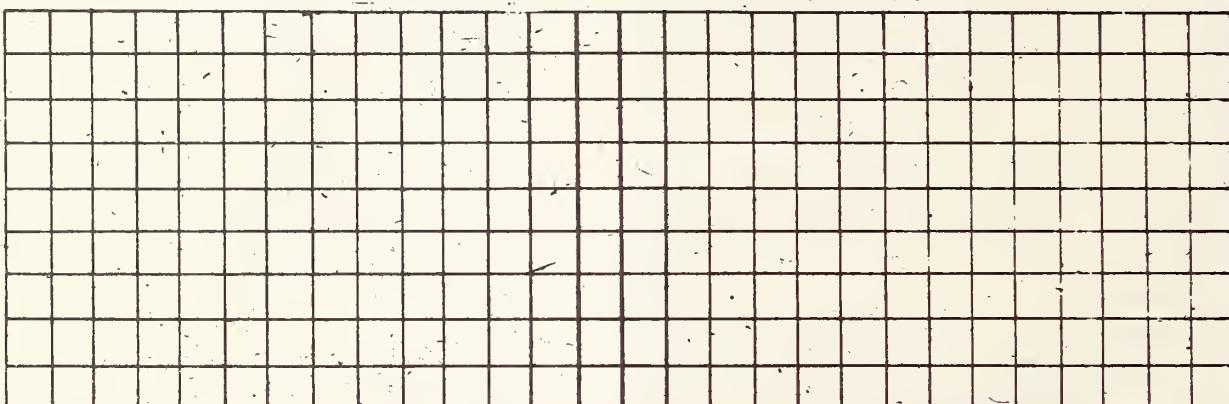
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Recent Debutantes





Candy



Due to the difficulty of obtaining photos not previously published in other magazines we have decided to periodically show you some new faces on the horizon, taken in our offices by drag consultant, Lee G. Brewster. All published photos are done so with the consent of the individual tv.

Louise





Surprisingly, Louise's wife discovered and accepted her transvestism shortly after this session. Could she have been so proud of her new self that she left the photos around...?

Jennifer









Isn't there a resemblance to
earlier photos of glamour girl
Pam Nolan? ?



Susan

BLONDE OR BRUNETTE? WE COULDN'T DECIDE SO WE HAD TO SHOW BOTH AND LEAVE IT ALL TO YOU. WE CAN'T SAY ENOUGH TIMES HOW THE PROPER COLOR HAIR CAN ENHANCE OR DETRACT FROM YOUR APPEARANCE. IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO CROWN YOUR QUEEN THE RIGHT WAY!!!!

Diane





Diane preferred the glamourous look to 'the girl next door' type. She certainly likes to flaunt it doesn't she.....







Midwest TS's and TV's Fight for Civil Rights



On May 6, 1975, Representative Arne Carlson (Republican-Edina) moved to amend the Minnesota Human Rights Act to prohibit discrimination on the basis of transexualism. Above the marble and mohogany grandeur of Capitol Hill, Minnesota twilight was conceding to darkness.

Midwestern legislators already weary from hours of deliberation bristled with amazement. It had happened. The "crazies," as pseudo-liberals are wont to call transvestites and transsexuals, had reached the "top of the mountain." That means, in Capitol jargon, they had gotten

their motion introduced to the full House.

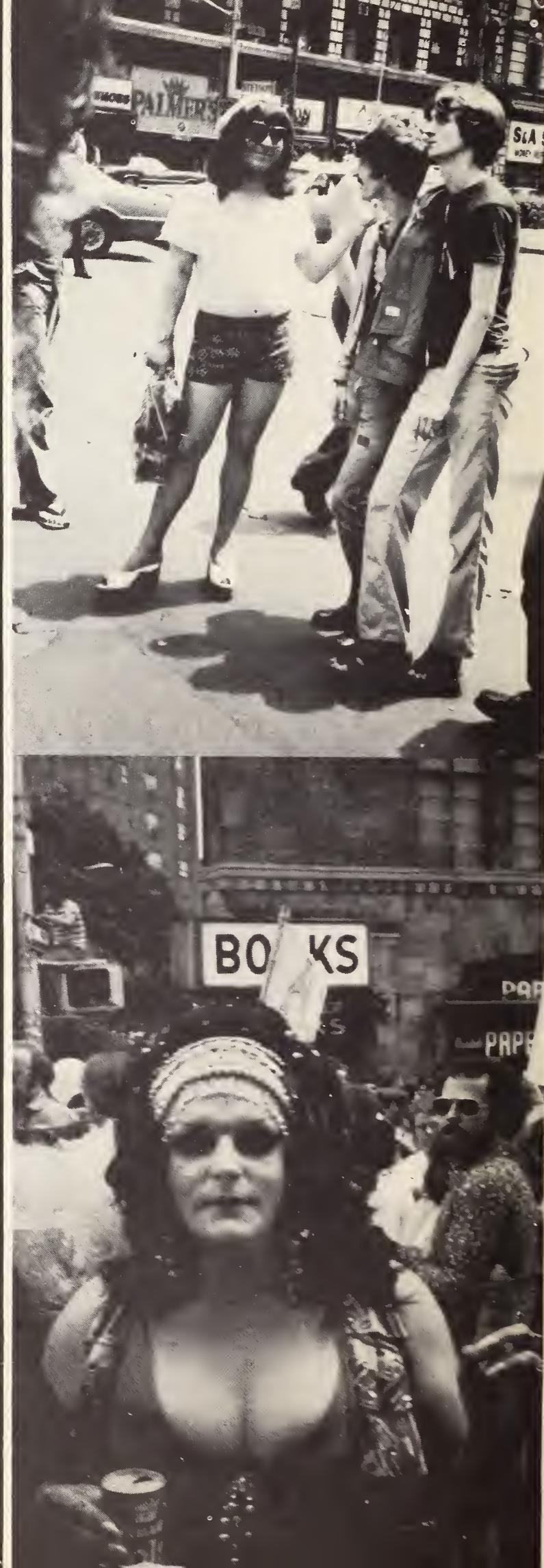
Carlson, who represents a comfortable suburb southwest of Minneapolis, also moved that, for civil rights purposes, transexualism be defined as "having or projecting a self-image not associated with one's biological maleness or one's biological femaleness." Representative James Ulland (Republican) seconded the motion.

Carlson's move confounded the allegedly liberal Democrats authoring the larger gay rights bill to be amended by this motion. Their chief advisor, Minnesota Senator Allan Spear (DFL-Minneapolis) had frightened them by insisting "I know for certain that the inclusion of language regarding gender identification would absolutely doom any chance of passing gay rights legislation this session." (Quoted from a January 29, 1975 letter to this author.)

Spear is himself gay, although he withheld this information from constituents at large and the media until several weeks prior to the letter in question. He teaches at the University of Minnesota. His letter did not corroborate the allegation about language regarding gender identification, but it did indicate that he would actively oppose amendments for transvestites and transexuals.

The author of the gay rights bill in the House, John Tomlinson (Democrat-St. Paul), trembled visibly as he spoke against Carlson's motion. He alleged sympathy with transexuals, but urged his colleagues to defeat the amendment because it would also apply to transvestites. No one else rose to speak to the amendment.

Members of the House asked for a roll-call vote, but were refused by House Speaker Martin Sabo (Democrat). Proponents of the amendment estimate 40 yea's and 70 nay's. Deliberation of the gay rights bill continued for about 30 more minutes. The debate was monopolized by arguments for and against gay teachers. One rural opponent of gay rights express-







ed concerns about gays teaching at the University of Minnesota.

Another elderly statesman could not grasp whether the bill meant his wife would have to share "lavatories" with "men dressed up like women," inspite of the defeated amendment. He was convinced these monsters already had their rights, for they had not been driven from the capitol while carnation peddlers were. The gay rights bill went down, too, garnering only 50 votes.

Two pre-operative transsexuals, Diana Slyter and Verna Jones, organized this campaign to re-affirm the civil rights of transsexuals and transvestites. They were concerned that they were mentioned nowhere in a so-called gay rights bill. Ms Jones told the press "We didn't elect our genetic makeup," adding that she and her associates are "human just like everyone else and want the same privileges."

Ms Slyter inspired the legislative effort. In April, 1974, City Attorneys told her that she was not covered by the Ordinance. Since loyal activists were seeking the same wording in the Minnesota Human Rights Act, she set about to educate them to the need for better definitions.

Slyter gained her first significant support in May, 1974, when the Joint Conference of Minnesota Human Rights Departments and Human Rights Commissioners adopted a resolution she authored asking the State Legislature to pass bills and appropriate funds to end discrimination on the basis of gender identity. Soon, over seventeen officers of gay organizations joined in support and formed a Coalition of Concerned Gays to work for appropriate legislation.

Spear's gay political group, the Minnesota Committee for Gay Rights, was conspicuously absent from the Coalition. Ms Slyter and associates appeared at three consecutive MCGR board meetings but could never overcome the Senator's influence.







The cooperation of the chief author of the gay rights bill, Senate Majority Leader Nicolas Coleman, (Democrat) seemed hopeful after preliminary staff meetings. Once coleman had spoken to Spear, however, those meetings turned futile, one member of the coalition maintained.

Things seemed to be doomed until March 31, when the Democrats refused to allow the transexuals to testify before the House Judiciary Committee. Chairman Richard Parish (Democrat) overruled motions by members of his own party, pounded his gavel furiously, and fumed, "No further testimony will be heard!" Republicans legislators began to listen to coalition members with empathy at about this time. The coalition people imagine that the Republicans have been victims of similar justice(?) within committees run by Democrats in a nearly one-party legislature.

Several weeks later, on April 23, a group of transvestites and transexuals placarded the Minneapolis Capitol. Inspite of two news releases, the press did not turn out. So the tiny band, including Slyter, Jones, Cathy Davison, Rhonda Princeton, Tammy Campbell, Charlene Meidal and Patrice La Grandeur, simply took their demonstration to the newsrooms. The St. Paul Pioneer Press did a small article covering the basic issues. Two days later, the Duluth NEWS exhorted the Minnesota legislators to "Get every sexual variation in the same legal bag, and let's be done with it," in an editorial headed "Tolerance Test". (Drag Vol. 5, #19).

The following week, Republican Representative Arne Carlson agreed to speak for the rights of transexuals and transvestites. He Began meeting with members of the coalition to study issues, and with House attorneys to talk about legal definitions. The morning of the House debate, he was still very avidly devouring every piece of literature on transexualism and transvestism he could procure.







Carlson's arguments before the House of Representatives were based on the self-evident humaneness of transvestites and transsexuals. He spoke of their right to "Petition the government for redress of grievances" by demonstrating at the Capitol and reminded the legislators that they had appropriated the very money with which the University of Minnesota began experiments with the lives of transsexuals.





The increased political consciousness of local cross-dressers already seems to be affecting court decisions here. On August 20th, Judge Rolland Faricy dismissed charges against a St. Paul man arrested in a mini-skirt for "impersonating a female" as unconstitutional. The Minneapolis Star ran an article on the incident with the amusing header, "Court rules boys can be girls--after a fashion--if they choose."

Members of the coalition indicated that they intend to return to the Minnesota Legislature with a complete gay rights bill in 1976. They also hope to mobilize a drive for similar national legislation in Washington, D.C.

Spear's group has adopted a resolution not to return to the legislature in 1976 because it is an election year. The Senator explained that legislators would fear to vote for gay rights in an election year. He, too, is up for re-election this year.

(Coalition members can be contacted by writing to Coalition, 2416 Humboldt Ave., So, Minneapolis Minnesota 55405. Contributions accepted. Deductible).

Photos accompanying this article are from the New York Gay Parade, not Midwest...



TV Review:

"And God Created He But He Also Created

"A well nighed flawless production". With that, the judging board of the trade coveted Prix Italia Award, gave the NAKED CIVIL SERVANT, its nod for being the best drama of the year. Unanimously. With that, let me dismiss any further mention of the work's success as theater. Unanimously, myv vote too.

For those of you, who were deprived enough not to have experienced the NAKED CIVIL SERVANT, let me gist it thusly: Mr. Quentin Crips, a homosexual transvestite (drag is more appropriate here) unfolded his psyche and life in a brilliant 90 minute exposition.

Shocking enough as this is, let me add that Mr. Crisp did most of his transvesting during the declining days of the British Empire, through England's darkest hour and finest moments of World War II. This was hardly the era of liberal social consciousness concerning deviant alternate lifestyles!

Don't be put off by the gay aspect. Mr. C Crisp truly speaks for all transvestites, and transexuals seeking to be feminine. He is possessed of that yet undefinable something, which constitutes a feminine,

New York City

Visited by

if not necessarily female, identity. His orientation is not distastefully presented and is in fact, quite logical for him.

The strength of his character speaks to all, straight, gay, in-between, or drag and non drag. From the beautifully poignant opening scene, wherein, the real Mr. Crisp--incidentally, this is a true story--introduces the film saying, "When they told me they were going to film my life, I thought, if I could just suggest one scene" . . . fading into a little light classical music and then emergence of a pretty boy piouretting in front of an edged mirror, trying, while holding a draped dress about him, to be prettier still, one sees the image of a person who has found and accepted his identity. By

and She Me!"



Best Drama

The Naked Civil Servant

One of England's "Stately Homos".

the conclusion, a scant ninety minutes later, when having realized in fantasy, his dream of an evenings entertainment by holding court--non sexually mind you--all-duly rouged and hennaed, with a group of sailors, only to be shocked back into reality by a group of would be youthful blackmailers, Quentin enters the ranks of England's great Queens and monuments. Her comments--and I must use the feminine pronoun for dear Quentin--"Begone, I am one of England's most stately homos", pushes aside Queen Victoria, Elizabeth and the tower bridge. They cannot withstand. Bravo foreign sister.

Life during this period was not easy for the drag. Full female attire was

anathema, punishable by fierce legal penalties. So a cover was devised.

Male clothing was arranged, resewn, and altered by accessories into the closest facsimile of female attire. The face--heavily made up. At one point Quentin is asked what he will do with his life, and solemnly replies, "Today, I think I will experiment with a new shade of eyeshadow." The hair was teased and styled female, more often than not dyed. In Quentin's case, it was hennaed red, in a wing flip.

In this country, the whole scene was known as "low drags". It was quite common here until the liberalizing atmosphere of the 70's. Was it that long

ago that I walked through the streets of New York with a clique of low drags out partying? Once legally safe, the style fell into abeyance.

There were several telling vignettes. Possibly the most moving occurred at Quentin's moment of self recognition. At this point, as with all who deferentiate from the norm, Quentin was lost. Aware that he is different, he lacks the total definition of that difference.

A chance encounter--we assume from the storyline it is chance--drives Quentin to the local strasse where the pretty boys are. Coming face to face with his first "Queen" who is unfortunately typically of the genre, trying to turn a trick, Quentin is at once awed. The look on his face could only be dipicted as what one would imagine on a blind man suddenly given sight. The queen, never identified, takes Quentin to the local hangout. There with that supposedly non existant ability to spot a sister, she casually invites Quentin to use her lipstick. Quentin seems to have been given morphine, an up, heroine, liquor, a million pounds sterling--at the old rate of exchange --and love. The line he pontificates sums it all as "I had found a home". He has now found his self definition, and resolves to make the world fully aware of it, and does so quite well.

In determining to lead his own life, Quentin had to face the pain sticking your head above the crowd can bring. Aside from the very real threat of legal de-tention, there was the constant stalking force of social ostracism. Gangs of youths preyed upon him, women spat at him as he walked by. Landlords wouldn't rent to him and prospective employers laugh-ed him out of interviews. It forced him at one point to earn a living as a nude model for an art course--hense the title, "The Naked Civil Servant".

Most bitingly, less flamboyant fags scorned him. Not sexually, you see, but socially. It helped being so obvious to pick him up for sex, but even then the gays were willing to sacrifice a scapegoat, to appease a straight, or perhaps raise their own opinion of self, in their eyes, by disassociating from Quentin. They didn't look different, even though all did the same in bed.

Yet Quentin Crisp lived this hard way. All transvestites face this dichotomy; hide and live as a tranquil on the sur-face, belying the turmoil, of a soul not at peace with itself, or just be. As Quentin told the Army board, when hit with a Bible quote that God created He and She, . . ."Well Thee that created he and she created me."

Mr. Crisp faced his world with all the weapons at his command. These were of formidable calibre. He used his acerbic wit and accurate reasoning, care-fully pointed and directed. These he coupled with the basic Rock of Gibral-ter security one gets, when you achieve your niche in the world. Knowing also the limits and strengths of your being helps. His greatest weapon was and re-mains the fact that Over-the-Rainbow doesn't exist for those who "fit in" either, but with this tremendous self knowledge Quentin had, he was closer to the gold, than "they" could ever be. On occasions when this failed her, Quentin faced his fate with the digni-ty of a Christian awaiting the lion. Life wasn't easy, but had to be lived. We can all profit from that.

The peak for Quentin came during the War, incidentally another favorite im-personators peak time. He would wan-der the street, and give comfort to the soldiers--his part for the war effort, "You think I'm a woman don't you, well



LEFT: Quentin Crisp
RIGHT: John Hurt, actor
who played Mr. Crisp in
the acclaimed teleplay,
NAKED CIVIL SERVANT.

Don't miss it when it comes to network tv as two networks are bidding for the rights to air this marvelous production.

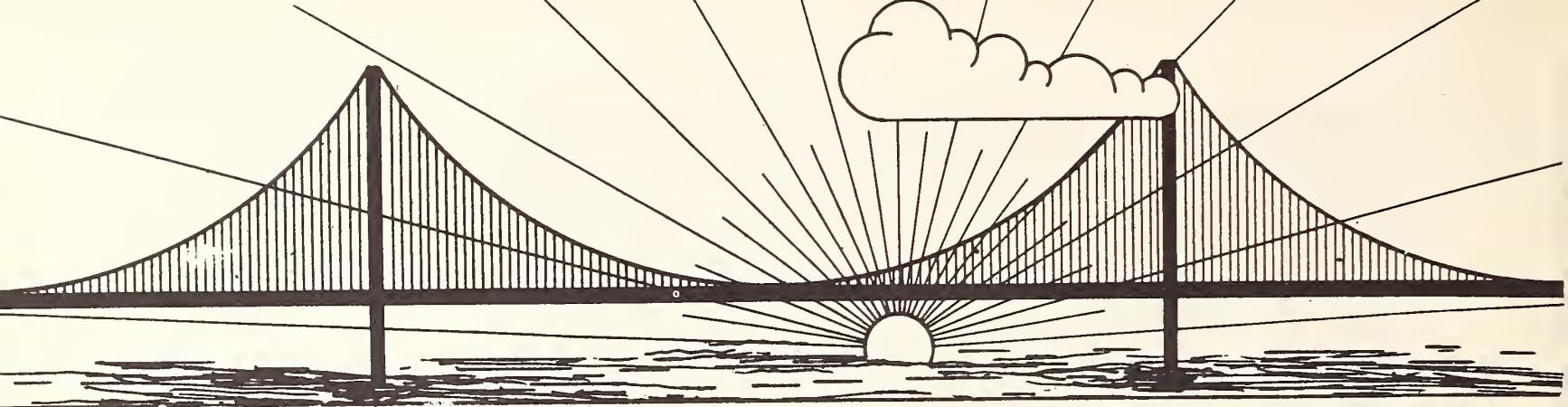
.....
if you wish. . ."

Marvelous indeed was Quentin's dealings with the law. Here his drag persona upset and finally won over the English jurisprudence. It was after all, a trumped up solicitation charge. Very importantly, Quentin had members of the straight community, who will almost always accept the drag, speak up for him at his trial. It seems that the people who knew him, easily realized his self worth, and being secure in themselves, were not bothered, as were some gays, by his identity. As a propaganda piece, in all aspects the NAKED CIVIL SERVANT had the force of an A Bomb. Here was an individual who had come to terms with himself, accepted himself, and realized that although he was different, it was a good different, and far better to live with himself as he, than live for others.

Of course there are flaws in Quentin Crips. He isn't superwoman, and not

perfect, but since Adam and Eve who is. Quentin's humaness overcomes any objections anyone could possibly have to him. His manner of lifestyle can only be seen as a positive expression of someone who is different from the norm, but different in a way that can bear no judgement from less tolerant others. There is something in THE NAKED CIVIL SERVANT for everyone. The gay should marvel that he lived his orientation so openly, in the manner he saw fit. The drag should learn a lot about accepting his own identity in the face of society, and the straight can learn about true determination and courage. Kudos are to be given to director, Jack Gold and to actor John Hurt, both of whom are deservedly building a collection of awards. Thanks are also to be given to Quentin Crisp for his courage, laced with a healthy shock dosage of exhibitionism, whom I now feel I have known for years. Why not, I see the dear girl in parts of all my friends, and just this morning in the mirror.

.... Bebe Scarpie



Linda Lee's Drag Scene

Goodness, here it is column time again and it seems like only 24 hours ago it was yesterday.

There's a lot to report, so we'll cut short the pleasantries and begin.

Usually this issue, the first with a deadline that falls after my summer visit to Los Angeles, would carry my coverage of the NATIONAL COTILLION. Not this time.. Again this year, for the second year in a row, there were new people running the Cotillion.

This new management specified in their ads that no pictures could be taken for publication without their permission. This is fair enough, of course, and a policy I have always followed ever since my extensive coverage of the event in 1973 when it was held at the Cocoanut Grove.

So I wrote and asked for permission. This was about a month before the event was to be held. As the weeks passed and no response came from the producers I tried telephoning. It was unusually difficult to get anyone to answer the phone. In 5 or 6 tries to 3 different numbers I only got through once, and that was not to any one in charge.

My number was taken and I was promised a call back. None ever came.

At this point, although I was in Los Angeles by the time of the festivities, I decided to skip it. I didn't mind not taking pictures, but could not see the point in spending a considerable sum of money which I could not really spare to give the National Cotillion a great deal of free publicity when they refused even to reply to my letter and calls.

That, I'm sad to say, is why there is no first hand report on the Cotillion this year.

I did hear from friends who were there and the feeling seemed to be, if not quite negative, at least unimpressed. Attendance was down this year to about 750 (at the Grove in '73 there were over 1500). The single thing that bothered my friends most was the Master of Ceremonies who, at what is supposed to be the classiest event of the year, repeatedly referred to the audience as "...you shmucks.." (ask your Jewish friends, but not while ladies or children are present.)

I'm pleased, though, that the bad experience with the Cotillion was the low

point of my visit., From there it was all uphill, very much so, in fact.

I've had some inquiries about the U.L.T.R.A., the referral service that appeared in the Los Angeles area for a time. People have asked what happened to it. I talked to one of the people who helped start U.L.T.R.A. and was able to get the following first-hand account:

"U.L.T.R.A. started in March of 1974. It was started by one pre-operative transsexual and one post-operative transsexual. It was begun to help others who were walking the same path, to guide them through their transition."

"There are so many mistakes that pre-operatives can make, so many charlatans and con artists... I've seen so many fall into their hands. This is mainly the reason that we started U.L.T.R.A."

"We found the right doctors. We had twenty plastic surgeons listed. We were public adjustors for three hospitals. My associate was in the insurance business. In fact one of the reasons U.L.T.R.A. did fold up was because she was picked to be the first woman president of an insurance company in California. Let's face it, wouldn't you leave U.L.T.R.A. if you were offered \$100, 000 a year?"

"Another mistake I did make was getting very emotionally involved with the clients that came in the office."

"We wound up with twenty and thirty post-operatives congregating in the office each day, and that really wasn't what it was for. It was to help people that really needed it."

"There wasn't enough advertising, either. Without a lot of advertising, it just couldn't get off the ground."

"Eventually I'd like to re-open U.L.T.R.A. It should have a nice office; it should be nationwide; it should have the proper advertising."

"In the future I see it coming back and when it comes back it will do better. We do need something like this and we need it now, because there are so many who are so mixed up. I've seen some really serious mistakes."

"I've walked the road myself and I've made mistakes, but I've learned from my mistakes."

"In the short time it was open I know some beautiful people who benefitted a lot from U.L.T.R.A."

"Bad things come easy and good things take time. It was worth it. For the ones who were ready for it, I was glad I was able to help."

"I'm just hoping someday to be in a position to re-open. It would be beautiful".

If U.L.T.R.A. can accomplish even part of what they hope, then all transgendered people can only echo the sentiment... "It would be beautiful!"

The closing of U.L.T.R.A. leaves a gap, of course. Nothing exactly like it has come along, but I did check on one group that helps provide support and counseling for transsexuals and transgendered people who don't have a clear idea of what direction they are headed.

This is the Southern California Gender Identity Group. They meet at regular

intervals for rap sessions with guests who are somehow connected with transgendered people.

They describe themselves as a group whose purpose is to reach out to those who are seeking their true gender identity. They are primarily concerned with transsexuals (pre-op as well as post-op).

Their services center around the areas of jobs, hospitals, doctors, and professional cosmetic help.

Their goal is to encourage and support rejected individuals as they experience their true gender identity.

They also try to maintain an informational and educational function both through the media and by public speaking.

The last four paragraphs have mainly been the group's description of themselves. From what I saw I can only add that they seem to be a group of very serious-minded and remarkably together people.

They can be reached at P.O. Box 8154 Universal City, Ca. 91608. or by calling (213) 762-0900.

In issue #19 of DRAG, I mentioned an exceptional book titled CANARY. It is an autobiography of a transsexual named Canary Conn.

Ever since I read the book, I admired the person who wrote it. On this last visit south I finally had a chance to meet Canary Conn and I can only say that my admiration increased tenfold.

Canary is a tremendously engaging, extremely vital person. She keeps several

projects going at once, any one of which could occupy us normally active types full time.

Some of these projects are things that we should watch or listen for, so here-with, courtesy of Canary, is a brief rundown of her activities.

By the time most people read this, her appearance on the all-transsexual Merv Griffin show will have been aired. Since some areas get these on a considerable delay and in some areas they are rerun, it is still worth keeping an eye on TV GUIDE. There is a good chance that Canary will be asked to be a guest again, especially if there is a good positive response to the first show.

Also, she is in the process of syndicating her own radio show, THE HOLLYWOOD CAGE. It is a talk/interview show and will cover a wide range of topics from murder to dog bites. Unlike a lot of talk shows, each segment will have a main theme of discussion.

She ran through topics for shows that she either has taped already, or plans to tape, and some of them are not only interesting but are things that no one has tackled before. For instance, one that struck me as fascinating was what skid row is like, seen through the eyes of someone who was a skid row bum for many years who is now a successful actor.

The show is not primarily concerned with transsexuals (or even with sex in general) but Canary does plan to do a segment on the subject.

There are other books in the works, including one that has been completed in manuscript form. Again, these aren't on transsexualism, necessarily, but on a variety of topics. In fact the completed one is on garage sales and how to



CANARY CONN

shop them. Canary has a real knack for this (I've seen some of the gems she's found this way) so this should be a book for everyone who likes to find a bargain, and these days that must include just about all of us.

The likelihood of a paperback edition of CANARY is strong. In fact Canary estimated that something concrete would happen on that within a matter of a few months. I ought to caution readers that this does not mean that they can expect the book to reach the stands soon. From years in the book business I know that publisher's schedules are funny things and it's not unheard of for a book that has been bought and paid for by a company to take 18-24 months to reach the readers.

I'd like to interject a personal note here... if transgenderism is a serious part of your life, then CANARY is a book you will want to read and keep (plug). In these days of \$2.00 and higher paperbacks, I urge you to spend the extra and get a hardback copy of this book. You may be able, still, to find it locally. If not Lee Brewster has copies (plug). It is an important book and a fine book. You will want to read it more than once, and it will have a special place in your library.

Finally, Canary told me that she is currently talking to more than one person about the possibility of a record contract. She feels that it will inevitably happen and, having heard some of her demo tapes, I have to agree. Record companies have been shy of it simply because of the transsexual angle, which is silly, but a solid talent like Canary's won't stay undiscovered indefinitely. When she is at liberty to give me details on this aspect of her career, I'll pass them on to you.

That covers just a bit of what is happening in the life of this remarkable person, and I think "person" is the right choice of word here for CANARY has not made a career out of being a transsexual. Her success has come irrespective of, in fact sometimes in spite of, her transsexualism. I feel very lucky to have had the chance to meet her.

It's been a long column this time and I have to bring it to a close. I still have lots of news, but most of it will have to wait until next time. There is one thing thought that is exciting that I can't put it off... exciting to me

In Memoriam

Toni Lee's

at any rate. After a year of dreaming, planning, thinking and preliminary work, I am planning to publish my own magazine. I can't go into details now, but it will be something quite different from most of what is slanted towards the transgendered person.

There will be more details released in this column as they become available. It will probably be about nine months before the first issue is ready, the normal gestation period, now that I think of it, for one's "baby".

This is all a thrill for me and I'm as curious as anyone to see how it comes out.

In the meantime any bouquets, brick-bats, and especially any news of interest to West Coast readers should be sent to:

Linda Lee, P.O. Box 11551, Palo Alto
Calif 94306



A shocked hush fell over the New York impersonation scene with the tragic murder of one of the most famous and best female impersonators of all time, Miss Toni Lee. The body of Miss Lee was discovered after neighbors, to whom her identity was well known complained to the police. She had been a longtime resident and was combining her career with part time service in New York City's Social Service Department. The detectives arrived almost simultaneously with a phone call from female impersonator, Bunny Lake. Bunny had been trying to reach Toni Lee to find out why the usually punctual Miss Lee had missed a show booking. She was approximately thirty.



Her career had many highpoints. There wasn't a single club or road show for which Toni Lee couldn't name her price or appearance position in. Recently, she had been flown to Chicago for a one night stand. At various times, she held starring roles in the Jewel Box Revue, the 82 Club, the Bon Soir, or on Broadway or on the night club circuit throughout the nation from Puerto Rico's Cabaret to Chicago's old Regal Theatre, back through the legendary Appollo Theatre.

To experience Toni on stage was to experience an illusion of beauty and effortless grace as she glided through

Swan Song



?-1976

her complicated dance routines. She started doing an Impression-on-Point routine in the Jewel Box. From there she progressed into her famous Fan dance, which combined the taste of an artist, steeped in classical ballet, with the elements of a strip. This last year, she had devised an altogether different act, wherein she danced with a feathered swan. The swan grew mysteriously out of her back, and proceeded to undress her, finishing with Toni doing the dying swan from Swan Lake.

As a person, Toni Lee was gracious



and charming, punctuating her conversation with exuberant, "My dears". She maintained the class she had on stage excepting . . . "a few indiscretions". One of those indiscretions killed her.

Toni was contemplating a sexchange. She was making up her mind one way or other at the time of her death. We at DRAG used to tease her about working for the city, saying that she was trying to build up credit for a pension to retire upon, so she would be secure in feathers for her old age. Toni, prophetically would respond, "my dears, I'll never get old enough for a pension."

She was classy, she was an artist, she was Toni Lee, resplendent in feathers, beads, and of course, those fans. Her act was received with plaudits by any audience, from the roughest truck drivers to the most elegant gays. One can still hear the strains of "Shangrila" as she made her entrance, "and now Ladies and Gentlemen, From the International Settlement of Hong Kong, The China Doll, Toni Lee."

May God rest her soul and bring her Justice.

Classifieds

Getting Together



To answer, place reply in a sealed, stamped envelope. Place box number on the envelope in pencil and enclose 50¢ per letter (**MINIMUM \$2**)

Lee's Mardi Gras Enterprises, Inc.
P.O. Box 1271
New York, N.Y. 10009



OREGON BOX 15154

Hi! I'm Janice, How are you? I would love to write and exchange photos with you. What do you say Gals? All letters with pictures will be answered. Those without will not. Janice.



California Box 15151
Would like to correspond with transsexuals and drag queens only! Must be attractive. Send S.A.S.E.



NEW YORK BOX 15155
Elegant young post-op TS would welcome sincere relationship with educated gentleman who appreciates intellectual and other exchanges. I like music, do modeling and enjoy people. Bonnie.

PHILADELPHIA

Box 15149

I am interested in meeting mature men for dates. I know I can make you happy. Phila and Jersey area. Lois

FLORIDA

Box 15146

Young, novice tv, bi, would like to meet others with similar interests. TV/TS, Bi-males & females please write. Photos and phone preferred, discretion a must, also assured.



TEXAS

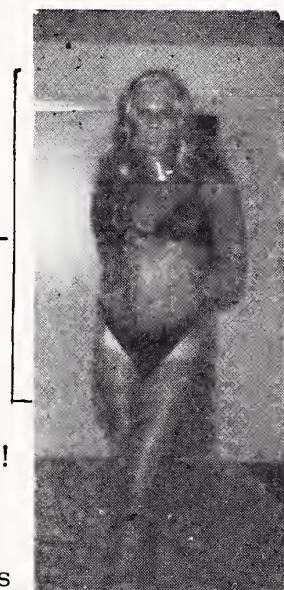
BOX 15142

Texas, white, married tv, age 31 wishes to contact and swap pics with any tv/ts or female. I am into make up and hair styles. I will answer any WITH pictures.

NEW YORK

Box 15152

New York Tv, 22, 5'7", 155 lbs, interested in meeting other tv's for friendship and love. Have a good personality and look good when dressed. Send photo if possible..



CENTRAL VIRGINIA

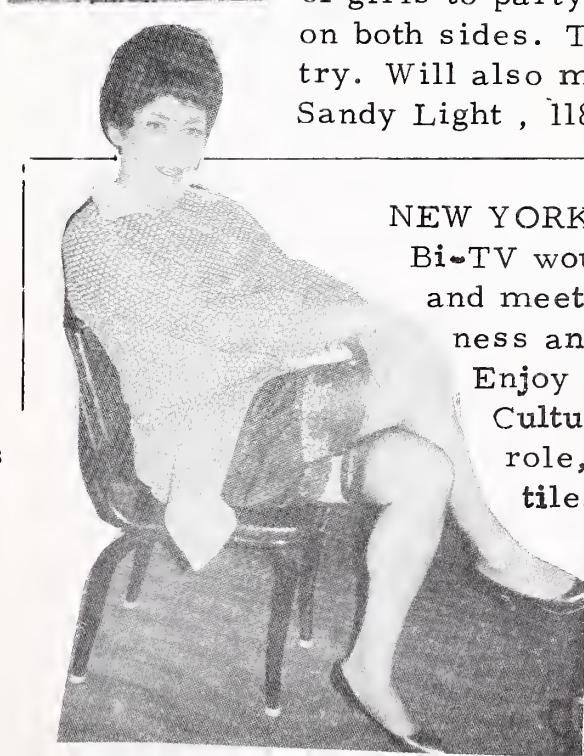
BOX 15123

White male, 25 years old, 6', 125 lbs and devastatingly charming, at times! wishes to contact, meet and develop possible emotional relationship with certain friendly and femme she-males and/or tvs. Sweetness and sincerity are the keys. Encouragement and sensitivity are also a plus. My interests include music, ink drawing, motoring, lounging, camping and love. Serious girls only, please. All letters with clear photpgraphs answered first.

NEW YORK

BOX 15136

Novice tv seeks understanding woman, tvs and ts for fun and friendship. Loves to wear sexy lingerie and dresses. Photo and phone please. Darlene.



PHILADELPHIA AREA BOX 15128

Two Foxy tvs, attractive, discreet, educated will date and model. We can indulge in FR, GK and love to dress in wild bizarre attire. (SASE).

WASHINGTON D.C. BOX 15144

Dominant "Black Mistress", well endowed, would like to hear from other tv's who enjoy being sexually humiliated. I know what you want and have the equipment to satisfy. All applications with cute sissy photos will be answered.

Western PA and Eastern Ohio BOX15139

36 year old tv would like to hear from females and tvs. I will answer all letters and am very excited to hear from you.

TEXAS

BOX 15126

Hot Texas Queen, young super attractive interested in meeting men. Love it all. Can travel or entertain.

NEW YORK BOX 15129

TV impersonator seeks female or group of girls to party with. non-commercial on both sides. Travels all over the country. Will also m. c. shows. Write Sandy Light , 1182 Broadway, NYC 10001

NEW YORK BOX 15156

Bi-TV would like to hear from and meet other tvs. Cleanliness and discretion assured. Enjoy French and Greek Cultures. Prefer passive role, but can also be versatile. Please send photo if possible.



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